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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PLANT BIOSCIENCE LIMITED [GB/GB]; Norwich Research Park, Colney Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 7UH (GB).			
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DEAN, Caroline [GB/GB]; 19 Waverley Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR4 6SG (GB), GENDALL, Anthony [GB/GB]; 167 Unthank Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 2PG (GB).			
(74) Agents: WALTON, Seán, M. et al.; Mewburn Ellis, York House, 23 Kingsway, London WC2B 6HP (GB).			Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
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(57) Abstract <p>An isolated nucleic acid obtainable from the VRN2 locus of a plant, which nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide which is capable or affecting one or more physical characteristics of a plant into which the nucleic acid is introduced, the physical characteristics being selected from vernalization response, flowering time, leaf size and/or shape or shade avoidance response; alleles, fragment and derivatives thereof; polypeptides encoded by such nucleic acids; antibodies to such polypeptides.</p>			